FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MARCH 1986

Assassination of Nabulus Mayor

The West Bank city of Nabulus observed heavy mourning after its mayor, Zafir al-Masri, was shot dead by unidentified assassins 2 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Many of Al-Masri's family from Jordan are expected to attend the funeral 3 March, the radio subsequently noted. A caller told AFP that the faction led by Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, was responsible for Al-Masri's assassination, stating that the "traitor" was executed in accordance with a decision taken by the Fatah Revolutionary Council "in coordination with two other Palestinian organizations." A PFLP spokesman in Damascus claimed responsibility on behalf of his organization, announcing that Al-Masri's execution was a frank warning to anyone who deals with the "Zionist-Jordanian scheme aimed at establishing an alternative PLO leadership," according to Radio Monte Carlo. However, a PLO statement carried by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio condemned Al-Masri's assassination, holding "Zionist enemy organs and agents" responsible. Jordan likewise denounced the killing in a statement broadcast by Amman radio, asserting that such "criminal terrorist acts" are directed "against the Palestine question" and entrench the Israeli occupation. For Israel's part, a Cabinet communique broadcast by Jerusalem radio noted Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' view that Al-Masri's murder is a blow to anyone seeking progress toward calm and understanding. Peres stressed that the assassination will not deter Israel from offering the inhabitants of the occupied territories the opportunity to conduct their own affairs.

Iran-Iraq War

Reporting on the military situation in the Al-Faw area, IRNA announced that Iranian forces killed or wounded 500 Iraqi soldiers in a thrust north of Al-Faw the night of 1 March. However, an Iraqi source cited by INA subsequently reported fresh Iraqi gains, asserting that the Iraqi VII Army captured "important junctions" that will facilitate further advances. As for Iran's offensive in the north, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 2 March claimed that Iran has lost 800 men killed in battles in the Chuwartah and Panjwin areas.

Commenting on the military situation in an interview with the London weekly *AL-DUSTUR*, the Iraqi Air Force commander disclosed that Iraq is preparing new weapons which will be used "especially against the Iranian interior," KUNA reported. An Iranian military source cited by IRNA warned that Iraq is preparing to use a new chemical weapon and the agency also reported that Iraqi warplanes used chemical weapons in a 2 March air attack on the Iranian town of Baneh. In a separate development, Iran's ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni announced in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio that Iran may require women to join the Armed Forces and learn military skills. Not only could they engage in fighting, Khomeyni pointed out, but they could also "double the strength of the men," who have "certain feelings" toward women and are "sensitive" toward them.

Egypt

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif denied "groundless" BBC reports of further incidents in Cairo over the weekend, maintaining that security has been established in all parts of the country and that no incidents have occurred, Cairo radio reported 2 March. The radio had earlier cited Al-Sharif's announcement that the army stormed a camp in the pyramids area 28 February, capturing a number of rebel Central Security Forces personnel. Al-Sharif said the army captured the camp after the rebels opened fire from inside it, and MENA subsequently noted that President Husni Mubarak has authorized the military prosecutor to investigate the incident and determine who was responsible for the presence of arms in the camp. Meanwhile, Mubarak appointed new deputies for Interior Minister Zaki Badr, who announced a reshuffle among top officials in the Interior Ministry responsible for the Central Security Forces and state intelligence, according to Cairo radio. In an interview with *MAYU* cited by MENA, Badr stressed that the Central Security Service will be maintained despite recent events and he also reaffirmed that there is no truth to the rumors about an extension of the conscripts' service. On the other hand, an Egyptian official cited by AFP acknowledged that the authorities had been planning to issue a decree extending the compulsory service of recruits who have shown indiscipline. Meanwhile, Cairo radio announced the lifting of the curfew in Greater Cairo between 0600 and 1800 local time. As for the damage caused by the riots, the tourism minister said the direct losses to tourist installations are estimated at around 100 million Egyptian pounds, but he acknowledged that the full cost to the economy will be much higher, according to MENA. In another development, Cairo's Voice of the Arabs radio castigated the Syrian and Libyan leaders for inciting Egyptians to join the riots and for falsely depicting the situation in Egypt.

Jordan

King Husayn criticized the PLO leadership's lack of credibility in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH*, asserting that the current Palestinian leadership is "very far from the conditions of the people under occupation and is not in touch with the facts." When a leadership emerges that can represent the Palestinian people, Jordan will be at its side, Husayn said, but Jordan cannot cooperate with "one who has no credibility."

Israeli-Lebanese Border Incidents

The IDF killed two DFLP "terrorists" who were trying to cross into northern Israel from Lebanon 1 March, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the Palestinians apparently intended to attack an Israeli settlement and take hostages. Commenting on the incident in remarks reported by IDF radio, Israel's chief of staff accused the Syrians of assisting the DFLP and he said an investigation will be held into how the DFLP squad had obtained IDF uniforms and Galil rifles. The IDF killed another "terrorist" later the same day during a clash in the northwestern part of Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon, IDF radio disclosed.

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President Ershad Announces Elections To Be Held

BK021650 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1332 GMT 2 Mar 86

[President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's address to the nation on 2 March; place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, greetings to you. Within the next few days it will have been 4 years since we assumed the responsibility of running the government. We had to take this responsibility at a critical time for the nation, and under the circumstances had to promulgate martial law. When assuming responsibility we had in mind three major objectives: to bring urgent reforms in the socioeconomic and administrative fields, to rehabilitate the economy, and to return to democratic rule within the shortest possible time.

I promised that we would establish Bangladesh in the world forum as a brilliant nation in its own right. I have come before you today to say a few things about our promise and announce an important decision. We pledged to reform the existing administrative system in the country which protected the age old social system and did not develop any direct relations with the people. Therefore, there was no question of people's participation in it. Even when it was acknowledged that the people are the source of all power, no realistic steps were taken to give the people of our country a role in controlling and implementing that power in the first decade after independence. We have tried to bring the government nearer to the common people.

I have mentioned earlier that we started our administration during a critical food shortage. The loss of foodgrains due to repeated natural calamity complicated the problem. Many people feared that Bangladesh was going to face a more frightful famine than the one in 1974. I said at that time that we would not allow even one person to die of starvation. By the grace of most merciful God we successfully combatted that disaster with the joint effort of the people, the government, and the armed forces. Not a single soul died of starvation.

Dear countrymen, I pledged that we would put Bangladesh in a new prestigious position on the world map. We would imbue each person with a sense of pride in their nation which is glorious in its own right. A call to make the dream of developing closer relations of friendship and cooperation among the nations of the South Asian region come true was made by Bangladesh. That dream has come true. The heads of state and government of seven South Asian nations gathered on the soil of Bangladesh last December. The South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation — SARC — was born in the capital of Bangladesh. The first flag of leadership of this great organization, the symbol of friendship and cooperation of 1 billion people in this region, has been vested on Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the representative of the unity of this 1 billion people. The ICO foreign ministers conference was held in the capital of Bangladesh. The unity of the Islamic community was forged further in this conference, and Bangladesh earned a high and prestigious position in the Muslim world. Recognition of the newly earned prestige of Bangladesh will again be apparent at the United Nations General Assembly session next September. Bangladesh will assume the position of president of that world body.

Our relations have further developed today with all neighboring states on the basis of sovereign equality. Our relations are closer today with all nations of the world. A prosperous Bangladesh, inspired by the spirit of the great liberation war of 1971, stands today with great self-confidence by the side of peace- and freedom-loving people of many countries of the world, including Palestine, Namibia, Afghanistan, and Kampuchea. Today Bangladesh is a recognized voice of the neglected people of the world.

Dear countrymen, after taking over the administration, I have stated repeatedly that martial law cannot be a prolonged or everlasting administration for any nation. I have said that I and my government believe in democracy. I have said that our objective is to set up a multiparty democratic society and constitutional rule within a firm framework. I have said that martial law is an exceptional thing. Although martial law was promulgated for unavoidable reasons, we did not abrogate the Constitution. We only suspended the Constitution. We did not want to put the nation into a constitutional vacuum. When we announced the decision to hold elections on the basis of the suspended Constitution, some sections made proposals to amend the Constitution. Some even suggested holding elections not on the basis of the suspended Constitution but on a martial law declaration. However, I remained firm on the question of the Constitution and stated plainly that we will not change the Constitution with the power of martial law. The rights of amending the Constitution lie with the elected representatives. Our faith in the democratic system has inspired us to make such a stand.

With this feeling in mind at the time of taking over the responsibility I pledged that we would return to a democratic administrative system within 2 years. I said that the responsibility will be transferred to the elected representatives of the people in phases. To make the democratic system complete and to ensure the absolute sovereign rights of the people I believed that the responsibility should be transferred to the people's representatives from the lowest to the national level. Having committed to my belief and pledge, I first made arrangements to hold elections for the union and municipal councils. In the second phase elections for subdistrict chairmen was planned for 24 March 1984, and in the third phase keeping in tune with the suspended Constitution and in conformity with the modalities [of the presidential election] of 1978 the presidential election was planned for 24 May 1984.

Some opposition parties and alliances opposed the decision of the government and demanded that parliamentary elections be held before any other elections. I and my government, while giving highest priority to the need for social amity and political understanding, postponed the schedule for holding elections of subdistrict chairmen and president. With respect to the views of the opposition parties and in honor of the suspended Constitution we decided to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day, and the date for those elections was fixed as 27 May 1984. We hoped that all sections would welcome our decision passionately and enthusiastically. But our hopes were not fulfilled. The elections had to be postponed one more time.

I and my government called upon the opposition parties to participate in this phase of national struggle in the interest of amity and understanding. We sincerely felt that any delay in the

peaceful transition to democracy would not benefit the nation and the people. During negotiations I and my colleagues had talks with more than 50 political parties. There we tried to study their views on elections and the transition process to democracy. Major opposition parties and alliances took part in those talks. They presented their demands and conditions to us on the question of their participation in the elections verbally as well as in writing.

We thoroughly studied their demands and conditions and respected their views and, being committed to a speedy and peaceful transition to constitutional rule, we decided to hold the parliamentary election first in accordance with the demands of the opposition parties. I made arrangements to meet their main conditions and demands by creating an atmosphere of holding a fair and free election. Even then — surprising the whole nation — the two alliances of the opposition parties declared they would not participate in the election. Once again the election was postponed. Under what circumstances did we have to postpone the election on that day?

You might recall the situation in which we had to postpone elections and the situation when some clauses of martial law were lifted and had to be reimposed. As an excuse for not participating in the election, they then said that elections would not be free unless martial law was lifted totally. They know very well that lifting martial law would lead to a legal vacuum in the country when it is under martial law until elections are held. Realizing this fact, the main constituent of an alliance took part in elections during 1970, 1978, and 1979 under the umbrella of martial law. The main constituent of another alliance, which was in power then, held election under martial law and participated in them. Moreover, there was no mention of total withdrawal of martial law in their demands presented verbally and in writing when they took part in the national talks.

I visited every nook and corner of the whole country. I traveled from one village to another visiting industries and farms and talked directly with people from all levels of society. I talked with peasants and laborors, students and youths, and women and professionals. They want peace in society and economic progress. They said that one of the basic objectives of our great freedom struggle was a democratic system of government. They want elections. They agreed with me that there is no alternative to transition to democracy except elections. Those who talk of transition to democracy without participating in elections, want to put the nation into chaos. I believe that our countrymen and democratic-minded political parties and organizations will not allow our beloved motherland to become a victim of such chaos and anarchy.

The martial law administration is going to complete its 4th year. It is not desirable to prolong it any further for any reason whatsoever. I said that elections would be held during the first half of this year. With respect to the people's will and our pledge, we have decided to hold parliamentary elections during the last week of April this year. The Election Commission will announce the election date and program. The opposition parties demanded holding parliamentary elections first. Respecting their views, I made arrangements for holding parliamentary elections on 6 April last year. In keeping with my sincere wish to see opposition parties take part in the electoins with due respect, we have decided this time also to hold the parliamentary elections first.

We took several important steps last time to ensure the opposition's participation in the election with full confidence. We met their basic conditions in this regard. We are ready to take similar steps this time as well. I hope that all opposition parties will take part in the next elections. I believe and have firm faith that all will wholeheartedly cooperate with my sincere efforts to take the country along a democratic path so that we can form a firm foundation of democracy for our future generations. Since independence, the task of establishing and maintaining democracy has never been simple or easy. Attempts and efforts at democracy were repeatedly thwarted by elements of anarchy and chaos due to the weak foundation of democratic political organizations and economy. As we stated earlier, we firmly assure that all possible measures will be taken to conduct a free and fair election.

I declare here that the following measures will be effective from the day of submission of nomination papers according to the program declared by the Election Commission, if the opposition parties take part in the elections this time: A member of Council of Ministers seeking election shall have to resign. All positions and offices of zonal martial law administrators and lower than that will be abolished. Martial law court will be abolished.

Dear countrymen, the party is greater than an individual, and the country is greater than a party. I hope that by forgetting all conflicts and enmity and keeping ourselves above all views and differences, we will not fail in expressing our sincere loyalty to our country, nation, people, democratic values, and at the pinnacle — the spirit of the struggle for freedom and [word indistinct]. What is needed most today in the efforts to take the country toward a prosperous future is the united strength of 100 million people. What is needed today is national unanimity and unity. I would like to call upon all political parties and all countrymen today, come, let us prove once again to the world through transition to democracy by peaceful elections that our determination is irresistible and our national unity is immortal.

May God take care of you; long live Bangladesh.

Opposition Parties Demonstrate

BK030338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Excerpts] In Bangladesh, elections to the 330 seat national Parliament will be held on 26th of next month. This was announced by the Election Commission in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, several opposition parties including the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party staged demonstrations against the elections under martial law.

Gandhi Sends Message to Philippines' Aquino

BK261628 Delhi Isi Diplomatic Information Service in English 1601 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Following is the full text of the Prime Minister's message to Mrs Corazon Aquino, president of the Philippines. Excellency,

On behalf of the government and people of India, and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure in conveying to you our cordial greetings and felicitations on your assumption of the office of the president of the Republic of the Philippines. Recent developments in the Philippines have confirmed the triumph of democracy, non-violence and the supermacy of the will of the people.

I offer my best wishes for the progress and the happiness of the peace-loving people of the Philippines under your leadership. May the years ahead bring peace, stability and all round prosperity to the people of the Philippines.

India and the Philippines have enjoyed traditional bond of friendship and we look forward to further consolidation and expansion of the warm and cordial ties that so happily exist between our two peoples.

With best wishes for your personal health and well being and with assurances of my highest consideration.

Rajiv Gandhi.

Finance Minister Outlines Budget for 1986-87

BK281405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Special budget bulletin]

[Text] The budget for 1986-87 presented by the finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in the Lok Sabha today proposes an increase in the standard deduction for income tax from 25 percent to 30 percent, with the ceiling going up from 6,000 rupees to 10,000 rupees for salaried people. Gift tax exemption limit raised from 5,000 rupees to 20,000 rupees.

The general budget for 1986-87 has an outlay of 22,300 crore rupees for the central plan to maintain the momentum of investment in the core public sector and to acclerate the implementation of antipoverty programs. This constitutes an increase of 20.5 percent over the budget estimates for 1985-86. The total plan outlay for the states is fixed at 15,880 crore rupees, an increase of 21 percent over the current year and 872 crores for union territories.

Presenting the budget, the finance minister said the allocation for major antipoverty programs is to be increased by nearly 65 percent. The housing scheme for the scheduled castes and tribes is being renamed as Indira Avas Yojana [residence plan] and is being further strengthened. A separate special fund, called the small industries development fund, is being set up in the industrial development bank. This will provide a focal point for coordinating financial assistance to the small-scale sector at the apex level. In addition, a new scheme for excise exemption for small-scale industries is also envisaged. The finance minister said social banking and insurance infrastructure will be effectively used for tackling the problem of urban poverty. A scheme will be launched to provide loans through banking systems for the subsidy component so that the repayment burden on beneficiaries is effectively reduced. An accident insurance scheme for municipal sweepers and railway porters will be implemented. This will provide group insurance through the workers union. It will give life insurance cover of 5,000 rupees with the double accident benefit to them, provided 75 percent of them agree to join the scheme.

Surcharge on companies to be abolished. A comprehensive direct taxes code will be brought by June this year. A levy of 5 percent will be put on industries for purchase of technology from abroad as part of the venture fund. A bill for this is to be introduced in Parliament soon. A personal accident insurance social security scheme for the poor families implemented in 100 districts in the current year will be extended to 200 districts in 1986-87. The entire cost of the scheme will be borne by the central government.

To give further momentum to the 20-point program, its outlay in the central plan has been increased to 5,998 crore rupees, an increase of more than 1,000 crores over the current year. Mr V P Singh announced that to improve the return on savings of workers and employees, interest rates of the general provident funds for the government employees is raised from 10.5 percent to 12 percent. He said depreciation provisions for workers housing has also been liberalized. Government will expand assistance to the weaker sections for housing. A provision of 103 crore rupees has been made in the budget for providing self-employment to educated unemployed under the scheme announced by the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in 1983. The budget also proposes a moderate scheme in stages to avoid payment of double taxation. There will be lover duties on drugs.

The finance minister told the house that the government accepts in principle the recommendations of the Chakroberty committee that the budgetary deficit should include changes in the entire reserve bank credit to the government. He said in response to the interest shown by small investors in investing in shares quoted on the stock exchanges, it is proposed to set up a new mutual fund. This will be in the public sector as a subsidiary of the Unit Trust of India.

To give a new thrust to the human resources development, education is to get an outlay of 352 crores. This represents an increase of over 59 percent over the current year's allocation. Agriculture and allied sectors are to get 2,838 crores, an increase of 29 percent.

The outlay for defense is 8,728 crores compared to 7,862 crores in 1985-86.

Department of Power is to get 2,575 crores. The information and broadcasting has an outlay of 274 crores, an increase of 120 percent. Department of Health gets 200 crores, while 530 crores have been allocated for family welfare programs.

Gift tax will be levied at a flat rate of 30 percent on the value of property to be given.

Further on Opposition's Response to Price Hike

BK261605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Three general secretaries of the Congress-I have criticized today's strike. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, they have pointed out that such bundhs and strikes only hamper production and cause setback to the country's economy. The general secretaries are Mr G.K. Moopanar, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad and Mr Naval Kishore Sharma.

The Janata Party president, Mr Chandrashekhar, said in Patna that the bundh was a total success and public response was stupendous.

In Delhi, the opposition parties held a rally at the Boat Club lawns today to protest against the price hike and increase in the DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] bus fares. The speakers criticized the government's economic policy which they said are against the interest of the common man. The speakers included Mr L.K. Advani, Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, Mr E.M.S. Namboodripad, Mr Indrajit Gupta, Mr P. Upendra and Mrs Ambika Soni. In a resolution passed at the meeting it was demanded that the hike in prices and DTC fares be immediately withdrawn.

2 Killed in Meerut Violence; Curfew Reimposed

BK021245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, curfew was reimposed in three police station areas of Meerut town after two persons were killed in violent incidents this morning. According to an official spokesman the situation is tense but under control. Police forces have been deployed in sensitive areas, and some preventive arrests have been made. The curfew, which was imposed on Friday [28 February] night, was relaxed from 0900 this morning but reimposed shortly afterwards.

1,300 Taken Into Custody

BK031621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in curfew bound areas of Meerut city is peaceful and under control. The divisional commissioner of Meerut city said peace committees have been formed. A peace march of prominent citizens and intellectuals was also taken out in the curfew bound areas with the help of the administration.

Police have seized a large number of unauthorizid firearms during the search in various localities in the city. About 1,300 persons have been taken into custody so far as a precautionary measure.

Judge Charges 17 Under Official Secrets Act

HK031550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 3 (AFP) — A judge here on Monday formally charged under the Official Secrets Act 17 of the 18 suspects in India's biggest espionage case, a domestic news agency reported.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted police sources as having said the judge, V.B. Bansal, had discharged the other accused, Ppunjab-based hosiery exporter Ashok Kumar Jaidka, saying that there was no evidence against him.

Judge Bansal charged the 17 accused with entering into a criminal conspiracy with foreign agents "and other known and unknown persons for purposes prejudicial to the interest of the state."

The agents included "Lieutenant Colonel Alexi Morvan and Lieutenant Colonel Alain Bolley of the Embassy of France, Jan Haberka, commercial attache of Poland, Gaiter Becker and Otto Weitkus of the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic, along with D.C. Krylov, G.N. Nudanov, S.I. Khelebnikov, foreign nationals."

Judge Bansal ordered that the trial of the 17 begin on March 31, the agency reported. Those charged are mostly government officials working in sensitive departments and businessmen, including Coomar Narayan, the alleged kingpin of the spy ring.

Immediately after the defence and economic secrets scandal surfaced in Jaunary 1985 French Ambassador Serge Boidevaux and the French deputy military attache, Lt. Col. Bolley, left India.

The media here reported at the time that diplomats from the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany had also left the country, and linked them with the scandal. But the Indian Government did not comment on these reports.

Khomeyni Urges Military Training for Women

LD021420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 86

[20-minute speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni on the occasion of "Women's Day," the anniversary of the birthday of Fatimah Zahra, Muhammad's daughter, 2 March — recorded]

[Excerpts] Defense of Islam, defense of an Islamic country are two precents which are not disputed by a single Islamic ulema, or by a single Muslim living under Islam. They are requirements. What is disputed is the initial jihad which is not binding on women. However, the defense of her home, country, living conditions, property, and Islam is a requirement for everyone. Once this becomes a requirement, then preparation for defense should also be made. Included in this is the question of joining the army and learning military skill. Defense will not be a requirement without the knowledge of how to defend ourselves; we must know how to defend ourselves. Needless to say, your military training should be free; it should be in a proper Islamic environment, where all aspects, all Islamic aspects are observed.

Thanks be to God, our women have been a pioneering segment in our Islamic Republic, as they have been with respect to all the problems facing Iran. If some women were to arrive at a place where fighting is going on, under these circumstances, not only could they engage in fighting, but they could also double the strength of the men, who entertain certain feelings toward women, and have a certain sensitivity toward women. It is not that the men would keep defending only themselves; they would maintain their defense and urge others to defend as well. Men are sensitive toward women. If a man sees a hundred other men killed he may not be, say, bothered very much. However, if he notices any sign of disrespect shown toward women, then he becomes upset, even if the women in question are foreigners. This is an inherent sensitivity which men show. Having said that, then I must add that your pioneering attitude in solving problems, including defense matters, jihad matters, issues relating to your assistance to the fronts, and your involvement with any activity, would result in the further involvement of men as well, in the further strengthening of men.

Today, while we are facing such problems, while we are facing such vast international propaganda, while we are facing these imposed wars I must say that, thank God, we are victorious on both fronts. May God assist our young men who are making such self-sacrifices there. I must express my gratitude to them for their display of unity; all of them have been turned into one single hand. We are not dealing with guardsmen, army personnel, Basij members, policemen, and so forth as separate entities. The fact is that all of them are now engaged in pushing back the corrupt forces. So far, as you must have heard, all of them have achieved victory.

Then, on the other hand, we see Saddam's disgrace, which is manifested in his awarding medals to his commanders, bravery medals.

You ladies should bear in mind that just as it is necessary for men to move forward on the battlefronts, you too should help behind the lines. You must prepare yourselves for the day, when, God forbid, if it becomes necessary for everyone to mobilize for general defense — that is, if it becomes necessary for all of us, for anyone capable of defense, to defend themselves without exception — then you too should be prepared for defense.

May God bless you all and grant you success and health.

Khamene'i Warns Women on 'Un-Islamic Practices'

LD021717 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — In a memorial to pay homage to Hadhrat Fatimah Zahra, daughter of Prophet Mohammad (saw) and the first lady of Islam here Sunday President Khamene'i lauded her as a personality setting the example for other women of every creed throughout the history.

Khamene'i who was addressing a group of Muslim ladies and other people in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatiman and on the occasion of the women's day warned that the Westerners use various strategems to estrange Muslim women from the values of Islam and lure them into un-Islamic practices by saying nice words prima facie in praise of women.

Khamene'i said in the contemporary world women live in a vacuum on the occasion of the day which also coincides with the Imam Khomeyni's birth anniversary.

Khamene'i also lauded traditional poets, and writers and reciters of eulogies in praise of the household of Prophet Mohammad (saw) and called on them to get inspiration from the revolutionary spirit in Iran as a source for enriching their religious and artistic works.

President Discusses War, Women at Cabinet Session

LD021056 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — The cabinet ministers, in a session presided over by President 'Ali Khamene'i, here Sunday morning discussed the latest developments in war fronts and current political issues in the country.

Congratulating birth anniversary of Hadhrat Fatimah, daughter of Prophet Mohammad the president stressed that one of the problems of the pre-Islamic revolution society was absence of an appropriate model for Muslim women. He said that characteristics of Hadhrat Fatimah served as the best pattern on the status of Muslim women in Iran.

The president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council hailed braveries of the martyrs of recent offensives launched by the Iranian forces, especially martyrs of the Air Force.

At the end of the session, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reported to the Cabinet on latest developments in Egypt and expressed hope that the Islamic Movement of Egyptian people against Husni Mubarak's regime will in future result in greater achievements.

Leaders Cable Condolences to Sweden on Palme's Death

Velayati Cables Andersson

LD011755 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday cabled a message of condolence to his Swedish counterpart Sten Andersson on the assassinataion of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme.

In his message Velayati extended his deepest sympathy over the catastrophe. He also praised Palme's efforts to expand Iran-Sweden relations and prevent deployment of internationally-banned chemical weapons.

Musavi Cables Carlsson

LD011728 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi cabled a message to the Swedish Acting Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson Saturday extending his deepest sympathy over the assassination Friday of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme.

In his cable Musavi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, too, has witnessed ugly scenes of terrorism backed by the arrogant powers against the Iranian revolutionary Muslim people and officials.

Olof Palme, said Musavi, was an internationally known figure who had endeavoured for international peace as well as expansion of peaceful co-existence between countries, and had, on many occasions declared his opposition against aggression and cruel practices.

Musavi said the assassination of Palme is against the moral and ethical principles of Islam and deserves condemnation.

Velayati Comments on Geneva Disarmament Conference

GF010927 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] The foreign minister of our country, who traveled to Geneva heading a delegation to participate in the annual disarmament conference session, last night returned to Tehran. In an interview with our correspondent, Mr Velayati described the results of Iran's participation in this session. We will now hear this:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Our aim in participating in the annual disarmament session was to specify the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on current matters related to armaments, the arms race in the world, and disarmament, particularly concerning chemical weapons, which during this imposed war have been repeatedly used by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was necessary for us to give some explanations concerning this matter. The topics set forth during this speech at the session convinced almost everyone participating that during recent weeks and many times Iraq has used prohibited chemical weapons. The effect of this talk was such that the deputy foreign minister from Norway, who spoke immediately following my speech, directly supported my comments and asked the session participants to set forth again the problem of chemical weapons in their year-end manifesto and in future regulations, and to carry out serious action to prevent the use of such weapons in the world. He also strongly condemned the use of this weapon in the imposed war. Generally, everything happening in the world in connection with armaments and the arms race is caused by the greedy activities of arms dealers and for the expansion of power of the imperialists and the superpowers. In fact, because of the sale of armaments and further use of this force in local fights, various countries having advanced armaments aggravate the situation. Until this problem is investigated sincerely and seriously, discussions related to disarmament are merely words. We clearly stated these views during this session. We hope that the day will come when the astronomical expenses used for arms in the world will be used for the improvement and expansion of human society and the advancement of science and industry. [End recording]

Ayatollah Montazeri Receives Martyrs' Families

LD011615 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit report, a group of the families of martyrs, students from several universities, teachers and lecturers from various cities of the country, yesterday met with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In this meeting, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri expressed his congratulations for the recent victories and his appreciation for the combatants of Islam and wished tolerance and resistance to the families of the martyrs. He referred to the holy birthday of the holy Zahra [daughter of Prophet Mohammad], may God's peace be upon her, and said that her holiness is the best model for Muslim women. He quoted some traditions attributed to the Prophet Mohammad about the exceptional position of the holy Zahra before the almighty, and said that love, injury, and torment directed at her holiness is tantamount to love and torment directed toward God and the prophet. He expounded on the question of tests and experiments in the Koran. The Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the uprising of the holy Imam Hoseyn, may God's peace be upon him, and his martyrdom in Karbala and compared the behavior and actions of Saddam with Ibn Ziyad [anti-Huseyn commander]. He addressed the Muslim nation of Iraq and stated: Have Saddam's crimes been less than those committed by Yazid and Ibn Ziyad? Is it not the same Saddam who has, with all his might, made life bitter for you, the oppressed people of Iraq, and on the orders of his masters has imposed this big war upon Iran and Iraq, two Islamic countries? And is it not Saddam who has now taken matters so far that he sends you to the battlefronts, group by group, so that you may be killed for his own sake and for the sake of his whims and desires? Recently, he has even make it compulsory for 15- and 16-year-old students to be dispatched to the battlefronts.

How is it that you, people of Iraq, who, having the noble shrines of such exemplary models as the holy Imam Hoseyn and the self-sacrificing children and companions of that holy imam in

your country, allow yourself to undergo this kind of hardship? Why do you let Saddam hold you captive and sacrifice you for the sake of his own desires and passions, and use you, oppressed people, to wage war against Islam and the revolutionary country of Iran?

His excellency stressed: Look at the Afghan and the Muslim Egyptian nations and the revolutionary people of Lebanon and see how they have revolted against the oppression of their respective regimes and how they are displaying their selflessness and self-sacrifices. Today, the Egyptian Muslim people must truly be congratulated for rising like this in unison against the affiliated regime of Husni Mubarak and his Zionist agreements, and calling for the establishment of Islamic rule in Egypt. The Grand Ayatollah Montazari said: The self-sacrifices of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan made with empty hands in confrontation with the occupiers, or those of the young Lebanese Muslims against the Israeli and American occupiers to the degree that they have been able to wipe out the saga of Israel's power in the region forever — are these not proof and lessons for you, O oppressed people of Iraq? How can a nation believe that the holy Imam Hoseyn is its imam and model in the conduct of its life and yet not revolt against all the crimes and oppressions committed by Saddam? Was not the revolt of that imam and that small, selfless group around him for the sake of defending Islam and justice and the annihilation of an illegitimate regime such as this? Can the illegitimacy of the godless Ba'thist regime of Saddam, with all the crimes and injustices it has brought and brings upon you, Muslim and oppressed people, be doubted at all?

If the brave people of Iran were not to have come out into the streets and defeated the oppression of the shah's regime with slogans such as: "Death to America" and "Death to the Shah," then undoubtedly the shah's regime would still have been in its place. In Egypt, too, today, if a similar religious and strong leadership existed, then without doubt the uprising of the Egyptian people would have ended up in victory within days.

He graciously said: If the people of Iraq too, under the leadership of the militant ulema and clergy, benefitting from the experiences of Iran's Islamic revolution, with reliance on the almighty, and through self-sacrifice and selflessness, were to pour out into the streets and rise against Saddam, then, without doubt, they would have fewer killed than the numbers that are being killed today on the battlefronts at the hands of Saddam! Then their country would be free from Saddam's evil presence and the godless rule of Ba'th, and they themselves will take their destiny into their own hands.

Minister on 'Differences' Among Citizens, Government

LD021357 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 2 IRNA — The interior minister, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Sunday called on all deputy governor generals from throughout the country to unify people and government offices and remove differences among them.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said that officials of his ministry should respect local theologicans, Friday mass prayers leaders, and cooridnate their activities.

He said, "we should avoid involvement in political groupings and refrain from following certain political trends". The Interior Ministry officials should take a respectful attitude towards people from various walks of life and be informed of public opinion and government policy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Oil, Goals of Offensives

GF281412 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Islam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 28 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers and peace on the prophet of God, his kin, and the pious people of God.

The Islamic world, particularly the Middle East, is passing through a difficult and fateful period. The war that Iraq has imposed on Iran has attained a good stage in the direction of defeating the Ba'thist aggressor regime. At the same time, however, a new attack by Western colonialism has begun in cooperation with its reactionary agents. It is evidently connected with the events which the colonialists ('caused) on the ('ground) of this hostile war in order to support the criminal Saddam. [Words indistinct] and the negative effects that this attack will have do not include merely the situation in Iran, but will affect all oil-producing and Islamic countries, even those which have demonstrated their disloyalty to Islam and to their people and cooperated with the imperialists in the latest conspiracy. The purpose of this attack is to weaken the economy of these countries and to strengthen the foundations of the industrial countries' economy. It is justified as being aimed at striking at the progressive Islamic countries, particularly Iran which the enemies consider a source of danger to the reactionaries in the region.

All of us know that the Islamic revolution in Iran has caused the price of oil to triple. In spite of this, the new price equalled only half the real price of this vital commodity. Two years ago, while Iran was occupied in th s all-out aggressive war, the colonialists began their moves to reduce oil prices. Regrettably, Saudi Arabia was the first to lead this campaign within OPEC. It was a campaign that coincided with the Iraqi regime's aggressions against Iranian oil installations on the one hand, and the cessation of the flow of Iraqi oil through Saudi pipelines on the other.

In addition the Ba'thist traitors in Iraq demanded a larger oil-exporting quota through Saudi pipelines and openly announced that they would not adhere to OPEC resolutions. Instead of confronting this tyranny, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait encouraged Iraq by providing it with the possibility of exporting oil and natural gas. They followed the same path and disregarded OPEC resolutions by increasing their production over the specified quotas. They also reduced prices to below what was agreed upon within that organization. Furthermore, they drilled more than 300 bpd [figure as heard] from the [Iraq-Saudi Arabia]

neutral zone and exported the quantity on behalf of Iraq. This has been going on for 3 years and is a violation of all OPEC resolutions concerning specified quotas for members. All these actions led to the reduction of oil prices until they dropped to half of what they used to be. These people actually paved the way, and the colonialists in the North Sea ostensibly dealt the final blow. I advise these people, if they do not fear God, then let them fear their Muslim revolutionary people who will not forget these crimes.

The "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" operations, during which the Islamic heroes have achieved great victories — in addition to their being a defensive initiative to regain usurped rights in this aggressive war — are also aimed at the oil areas in Iraq and the region. It can be noticed that, with its goals and planning, looms the oil issue and the economic campaign and the map that has lately begun. [Sentence as heard]

We expect the Islamic nation to support us in our latest struggle which we are carrying out in order to preserve the interests of the whole Islamic world.

In this respect, we are doing our utmost in the sphere of negotiation so that we may perhaps persuade the oil-producing countries to deal seriously and truly with the issue for the sake of preserving the people's interests. The latest military operations are a warning and an ultimatum should such efforts fail; if the treason persists we will be compelled to change our methods of dealing with all those who do not seek to do right. We hope that matters will not reach that stage.

I take refuge in God from the evil one. In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Say: He is God, the one, the eternal; he begetteth not, nor is he begotten. There is none equal like unto him. [Koranic verse] Peace on you all, and the mercy of God.

Further Reportage on Visit of UN Delegation

Checks Chemical Gas Victims

GF010715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] The UN experts currently visiting our country to investigate the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in the imposed war continued their visit to Khuzestan Province and visited chemical weapons victims being treated in a hospital in Ahvaz. According to our correspondent there, during their visit a hospital official reported on the condition of the chemical weapons victims, various poisonous gases used by the Ba'thist Zionist Iraqi regime against the combatants of Islam, and the effects of these gases on the victims. Later, UN experts carefully visited the chemical weapons victims being treated in various wards in this hospital. By speaking to them they are preparing a detailed report on their condition and their findings. Our correspondent adds: In this hospital the UN experts met a pilot of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime who is a prisoner of war and on a number of occasions used chemical bombs against the combatants of Islam; they noted his confessions.

The UN experts, continuing their visit of the imposed war fronts, yesterday arrived in Abadan and visited civilian areas of this city, which has been contaminated by the chemical bombardment carried out by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime planes. According to our reporter the UN experts visited the locality of the chemical bombardment carried out on 13 February this year by two planes of the criminal Iraqi regime and also the remainder of parts of chemical weapons. According to the same report, these bombs were used only kilometers from the war fronts and traces of the use of chemical weapons were clearly visible. The UN experts prepared a documentary report and took photographs of the area where the chemical weapons were used and the remains of the parts.

According to our correspondent, in continuation of their visit to areas hit by chemical weapons, the UN experts delegation visited a salt marsh 15 kilometers south of Abadan, which was hit on 18 February this year by chemical weapons from three Iraqi planes. The smell of chemical weapons in this place was so bad that the visitors had to wear special masks.

The UN experts later visited a hospital south of Abadan which was chemically bombed on 27 March this year [the Iranian year] by the Iraqi regime. The traces of more than 10 chemical bombs were obvious and the smell of chemicals enveloped the hospital area. This hospital was established over a year ago. The Iraqi regime knew very well that there was a hospital in that area, and dropped chemical bombs on the hospital. When the UN experts visited this desert hospital, the war wounded patients had been evacuated because the wards had been infected by the chemicals. According to the same report the UN experts, while preparing reports and photographing the remainder of chemical bombs, took samples of the soil from the effected areas.

Leaves Tehran

LD030504 Tehran IRNA in English 0459 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA — The United Nations enquiry commission visiting here to investigate the effects of the Iraqi deployment of chemicel weapons, left Tehran Monday morning following a four-day stay and tour of the areas hit by chemical bombs and visiting those injured.

The five-member team visited the areas in southern war fronts hit by the Iraqi lethal bombs in the course of the current Val-Fajr-8 offensive, and took samples for further investigations. The team also visited those afflicted by the bombs hospitalized in Tehran and western Iran.

The trip was the second by a U.N. insepection team since 1984, investigating Iraqi usage of chemical weapons.

The Iraqi regime in complete defiance of all international resolutions and conventions banning usage of toxic chemical weapons has repeatedly deployed them against the Islamic forces. The Islamic Republic of Iran has already warned that if the international organizations failed to stop Iraq from using such weapons, Iran will take a practical action in this respect.

A group of those severely affected by the bombs have been flown abroad for further treatment. However, five of them have been martyred in European hospitals.

SAIRI Chairman Warns Kuwait on Future Relations

LD011716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakir al-Hakim, chairman of Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq, SAIRI, by an unidentified correspondent; date and place not given — read by announcer]

[Text] The remarkable victories and great conquests scored by the Islamic revolution of Iran's heroes on the southern and northern fronts have increased the expectations of the world, particularly the people in the region, for rapid and extensive changes within the Baghdad regime. So, the helpless Iraqi regime, in order to counter the blazing wrath of Iraq's oppressed Muslim people, in addition to stepping up security measures in the cities, Baghdad in particular, has also stationed a number of tanks in the city's sensitive centers. Military forces have also received orders to demolish the bridges linking the east and west of Baghdad if rioting breaks out.

The SAIRI chairman referred to the inability of Saddam's army to withstand the lightning onslaughts by Islam's forces and said this indicates the completely nonsensical claims made by Saddam and his defeated commanders. He referred to the weak morale of Iraqi troops and NCO's captured by Islam's combatants and said: The morale and and reaction of these POW's, who on their capture seem to [words indistinct], as it were, demonstrate that the Iraqi regime is totally deprived of popular support and that it lacks a base among the army and the military of that country.

In connection with the cooperation of certain regional governments with the antipeople Iraqi regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam Aql-Hakim, addressing these governments, particularly Kuwait, warned that the relations of a future Iraqi Government, which would definitely be an Islamic government, with neighboring countries would be directly influenced by consideration of the current behaviour of those countries. Once again he called on the supporters of the Saddam regime in the region to give up their confrontation with the Muslim Iraqi people and, instead of succorring the helpless Baghdad regime, [words indistinct] to align themselves on the side of the country's oppressed. The SAIRI chairman referred to the victory scored by Islam's combatants in the Al-Sulaymaniyah area in Iraq as the best opportunity for stepping up the operations by the Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries and by other Iraqi revolutionaries and said: Now that the Islamic army is fighting side by side with Iraqi Muslim mujahiddin this brings about an excellent opportunity for a further expansion of the struggles by the people of this region against the Iraqi ruling regime. This is so that the [word indistinct] revolutionaries in this area would step up their pressure on the 'Aflaqite regime ruling Baghdad, thereby avenging the thousands of martyrs whose blood was spilled following their mass executions in Kirkuk and Al-Sulaymaniyah.

Emphasizing the fact that the recent conquests made by Iranian forces have given rise to a wave of happiness in the hearts of the deprived in the region, particularly the Muslims in the neighboring countries, he then referred to the effects that these victories have had in striking fear and terror among the weak-willed supporters of Saddam. He expressed the hope that the inspiration received by the world Muslim strugglers, particularly the Egyptian revolutionary people, from the Islamic revolution and the ('selfless army) of the Islamic revolution of Iran would attain brilliant results. [Passage indistinct]

Chances for Islamic Revolution in Egypt Examined

LD021725 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 2, IRNA — As General Badr, a career security officer who was given the task of curbing the Islamists after the assassination of Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, takes over the portfolio of Egypt's new interior minister, Cairo's political circles discuss the possibility of a change in the country's political leadership.

A senior journalist working with *AL-AHRAM* seems to have heard from the country's top military generals that Mubarak has lost favour with the Americans and it is now a matter of time before the Egyptian president is replaced by his defense minister, General Abu Ghazala.

Abu Salim, an Egyptian Muslim journalist who wished not to reveal his real name, told IRNA from Cairo that the senior army officers were angry over the "mess" the president had created during the four years of his mis-rule.

Some of them are now seriously thinking of removing him, he said.

Whether they were acting on their own or on behalf of Washington was not yet clear. But it was apparent that their views were shared in the White House as well, which now seriously thought Mubarak was not the man who can protect well the American interests, he said.

Washington's speculated interference in the country's political affairs however does not guarantee any betterment in the life of people which has come under severe strains.

Egypt's tourism, one of its biggest sources of badly needed foreign currency, will almost certainly collapse after the burning down of luxury hotels during the mutiny by the paramilitary police.

Oil prices are falling sharply, affecting Egypt's balance of payment for its dollars 30 billion plus foreign debt, and unemployment is becoming chronic.

This coupled with the political unrest caused by Mubarak's hobnobbing with the Zionist entity and fast growing Islamic movement has made the country like a volcano which may explode anytime.

In Washington's view if Mubarak continues to rule the country ineptly, Islamists in particular may get an upper hand and mobilise the masses for a viable political change.

Washington believes if such a change takes place the whole region would witness the mass upsurge against its influence. For this reason, Egypt's political circles say, Washington will itself prefer a transition before the people's power strikes.

Abu Ghazala is considered a favourite in Washington. His role curbing the recent mutiny has been appreciated by the Reagan administration.

Meanwhile amidst rumours that the new interior minister Major General Zaki Badr was preparing a major clamp down on Islamists, Cairo residents spent the fourth consecutive day under curfew.

The army seems to have curbed the mutiny but the restlessness it has generated has now reached grass root levels.

The Egyptian journalists now feel if this feeling continues to mount, the emergence of a popular Islamic leadership could have a strong chance to inspire an Islamic revolution.

Iraq 'Fully Aware' of Passenger Plane's Identity

LD281826 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 28, IRNA — Two captured Iraqi fighter bomber pilots Friday said the unprecedented number of Iraqi war planes downed in the southern Al-Faw peninsula has weakened the morale of their comrades.

Captain Sa'd Ibrahim Shabib, pilot of Soviet built MIG-23 said also that Iraqi authorities were fully aware that they were shooting down a passenger plane when they ordered the downing of a plane near Ahvaz last Thursday.

Shabib, parachuted to safety after his plane was hit by a ground-to-air missile while on a mission with the 49th Squadron over Al-Faw. He said all facts indicate that the Iraqi authorities were aware who the passengers of the Friendship were.

He said Captain Majid Hamid 'Ali and Lieutenant Mawfiq piloted two MIG-23 fighter planes to bring down the Friendship airliner while Captain Majid Hamid 'Ali fired the missiles.

"But the attack on the passenger plane has demoralized the Iraqi pilots and some are displeased about this" he said.

Referring to the state of combat in the battle fields, Shabib said that Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the offensive on Al-Faw was extraordinarily heavy and that the continuous downing of Iraqi planes has demoralized his comrades.

"Now Iraqi pilots fly with utmost care and at high altitude when over Al-Faw" he said.

Also speaking to IRNA Lieutenant Sa'd 'Abd al-Jabar Jarallah, pilot of Soviet made Sukhoy, made similar statements about the dangers of flying over Al-Faw now" he said. The 24 year-old pilot said because of the protracted war and shortage of man power, pilot training courses are short and most of the pilots lack the necessary skills.

Jarallah was flying with the 19th Squadron from the Al-Shuaybah airforce base when his plane was shot over Al-Faw.

Iraqi Army Official Admits Inability To Retake Al-Faw

LD011738 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, Mar. 1, IRNA — Political orientation director of the Iraqi Army 'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin has confessed that Iraqi forces are not capable of retaking Iraqi areas (Al-Faw) liberated by Iranian forces during Val-Faj-8 offensive. In an interview with Kuwait's daily *AL-SIYASAH* here Saturday the director said that conditions on the ground in the battle theaters have imposed limitations on Iraqi armoured personnel carriers as well as on its infantry units.

The Iraqi official did not mention the insufficiency and low morale of the Iraqi forces. He added that another reason for the defeat of Ba'thist forces in the region was 'improper weather'.

War Headquarters Calls for U.N Action on Iraqi 'Crimes'

LD021540 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) in an announcement Sunday called on international organizations to react against the expanding dimension of Iraqi crimes.

The Iraqi regime deployed chemical weapons against the city of Baneh in Kordestan Province four times Sunday, injuring a large number of Iranian civilians.

Referring to the Sunday chemical bombing of Baneh, the WIH statement called on the U.N. secretary general to take measures to dispatch the visiting U.N. enquiry commission to the city to file reports on Iraq's chemical attacks against the civilian area.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2395

LD281710 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA — Heavy fighting in the southern war fronts erupted in Shahrani, Kushk and Majnun Islands, said the daily communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces Friday.

Iraq's engineering efforts for the construction of channels, mine fields and fortifications were brought to a halt in areas facing Nahr 'Anbar, Hoseyniyeh and western Jofeyr as they were subjected to heavy Iranian shelling, according to Joint Staff Communique Number 2395.

It reported that Iran's Muslim combatants shelled several Iraqi military columns in Yabis and Hoseyniyeh region, while in area facing Jofeyr several Iraqi patrol boats came under Iranian troops fire, forcing them to flee.

In the northwestern front, the heaviest fighting was reported in Marivan and Panjwin region where the Iraqis had their heaviest supply activity.

"In these regions Iranian artillery and mortar fire put an end to the military and supply activities of Saddam's forces" it said.

According to the communique Iranian patrols carried out at least 12 missions in the sensitive parts of Piranshahr. In Haj 'Umran one patrol came back with a large quantity of Iraqi ammunition including several anti-personnel and anti-tank mines.

Reporting on the western front, the communique said Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi units engaged in constructing fortifications and channels in Mehran, Halaleh and Kani-Sheykh regions.

One Iraqi patrol retreated with heavy casualties after confronting Iranian forces in Qasr-e Shirin area, while Iraqi war planes fled heavy anti aircraft fire in the Gilan-e Gharb region, said the communique.

Chuwartah Under Direct Fire

LD281802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest report received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, in continuation of the third stage of the "Val-Fajr-9" which achieved the liberation of Al-Sulaymaniyah, the city of Chuwartah, Iraq fell under the direct line of fire of the forces of Islam.

According to this report, the combatants of Islam by smashing the enemy's position killed or wounded another 100 enemy troops in the operational sector of "Val-Fajr-9,"and continued their work of evacuating the POW's of these operations to behind the fronts; as of now 205 troops of Baghdad's Zionist regime have been moved. Also, the combatants of Islam with their heavy fire destroyed 10 artillery trenches of the enemy; 20 artillery batteries with assorted weapons were taken intact as booty. This is in addition to the armaments and equipment mentioned earlier.

Iraq To Deploy New Toxic Weapons

LD011047 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Following Iraq's repeated defeats in "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" offensives, a number of criminal Iraqi commanders have talked about deploying a new lethal weapon in war fronts soon. They have claimed that the new toxic weapon will wipe out any living creature within range of several kilometres.

A reliable military sources at Khatam ol-Anibiya' joint headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, was contacted Saturday morning to comment on the issue.

The source said that the Iraqi regime in the past five years by bombing and missile attacking residential areas and massacring civilians, repeatedly deploying chemical weapons against Iranian combatants, and attacking passenger planes, has in fact ridiculed international regulations.

"The Baghdad regime, in complete disrespect for world public opinion, has allowed itself to deploy any anti-humanistic weapon and has not fallen short of committing any crime in this connection," the source said.

The Iraqi ruling clique is wrong in thinking that its new weapons will have the least effect on the strong will of the Islamic combatants of Iran and that such bombs will somehow compensate for defeat of Iraqi troops, he added.

"On the contrary," he stressed, "such criminal acts will further strengthen determination of the Islamic combatants of Iran in crushing the enemy forces."

The source added that Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the conduct of the Iraqi regime in the past, takes the recent Iraqi threat seriously and warns against deployment of such weapons.

He said that it is believed the new weapon is in fact a chemical weapon capable of causing more destruction and contaminating larger areas.

He called on relevant international organization to stop being indifferent and take a serious stance towards the Iraqi regime in order to uproot corruption and tension in the region.

The source reiterated "the Islamic combatants of Iran are fimrly determined to defend their victories and make new gains." "Therefore," the source stressed "any anti-humanistic act by the criminal Iraqi regime, will be retaliated with a decisive answer."

Presidential Guard 'Smashed'

LD011104 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 1, IRNA — The Iraqi regime has transferred the remainder of the presidential guard to an area called 'Qal'at Salih,' southeast of the Iraqi city of Amarah, for reorganization, said Lieutenant Sulayman Halil, captured by the Iranian forces in the course of the ongoing 'Val-Fajr-8' offensive, launched in Al-Faw.

During the offensive some 80 percent of the presidential guard was smashed and the remaining who were mostly injured were transferred behind war fronts from where they were taken to Qal'at Salih.

The captured lieutenant added that the withdrawal of the remainder of the presidential guard which is the best equipped unit in the Iraqi Army, was to cover up the humiliating defeats suffered by the Iraqi forces.

After reorganization, he added, the unit will be sent to Baghdad so that the people will have the impression that the unit is intact.

He further told IRNA that according to a recent circular Saddam Husayn has warned that the Iraqi courts will divorce wives of those Iraqi military personnel who flee the warfronts.

Positions 'Totally Invulnerable'
LD011106 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Faw operational area, March 1, IRNA — An Iranian commander stationed in the operational theater of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive here Saturday reiterated that connection channels of the Islamic forces of Iran in the area, are totally invulnerable.

He referred to the recent claims of the Iraqi commanders that such routes were vulnerable as "pure lies and fabrications".

He further reiterated that the Iranian positions and connection channels in the region were completely impenetrable.

He stressed that the Islamic forces of Iran have not even given up one inch of the territory they have captured. On the contrary, in order to prevent enemy counterattacks, the Islamic forces have taken over more areas.

Saddam Commanding Operations
LD011152 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Faw operation region, March 1, IRNA — A senior Iraqi officer captured in the course of the ongoing "Val-Fajr-9" offensive told IRNA that the Iraqi ruler has taken command of the military operations in the area.

The Iraqi officer speaking to IRNA added that since the area was strategic, Saddam himself directs the operations from "Hayniyah," some 25 kms southwest of Basra.

While commanding the operations, Saddam witnesses the demolition of his own army, he said.

'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 7
LD011500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Communique No 7 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for the operations of the joint forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, [IRGC] was issued a few moments ago, as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oh, ye fighting and combative nation. The brave and God-seeking nation of Iran, the self-sacrificing, selfless troops of the army of Islam, in continuation of the victorious operations of "Val-Fajr-9", have created another epic. While establishing themselves completely in the strategic and sensitive heights of Cham-e Tang-e Bor, Hazar Kullah, Kouh Nam-Nam, Hfti Darreh, Kanaser, Shah-Kowan, Kareh'an, Zolan, Tang-e Sur, Midara, Kureh Deh, and Mamohlal, the high and snow-covered summits of the north and northeastern region of the Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq, they succeeded, in continuation of the third stage of the pride-bringing operations of "Val-Fajr-9," after liberating the Pilinkeh heights, in also liberating the heights of (?Kowan) situated in the general region of Al-Sulaymaniyah of Iraq and in hoisting the victorious flag of their conquest on its summit.

The heroic troops of the army of Islam, by establishing themselves fully 20 km from the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq, last night succeeded, while repulsing the enemy's counterattacks, in inflicting more heavy blows on the criminal mercenaries of the Zionist regime of Baghdad. The pride-bringing combatants of the monotheist army, even now, with their exceptional alertness, are safeguarding more than 300 square kilometers of the regions liberated by the victorious "Val-Fajr-9" operations, and monitoring all enemy movements in this region. By disrupting the formation of the waning Ba'thist forces, they are setting on fire the installations that the defeated Ba'thist forces set up in this region, and are destroying them.

Succor from God and a nigh victory and give glad tidings to the faithful. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center for the joint operations of the IRGC and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Communique No 2396
LD011716 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — A number of Iranian civilians were martyred and wounded in an Iraqi aerial raid on the city of Baneh, Kordistan Province, Friday, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Saturday.

In its communique number 2396, the command says that Iran's Muslim combatants opened artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western and southern fronts Friday killing or wounding at least 20 Iraqi soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements of theirs. The enemy artillery fire was also silenced by Iranian artillery fire.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim troops carried out over 25 combat missions in the suspected areas seizing a great deal of weapons and ammunition. They also heavily shelled Iraqi positions in the said fronts killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers and demolishing 10 enemy tanks.

The communique says Iranian anti-aircraft units forced the intruding Iraqi war planes to flee from Sar-e Pole-e Zahab, Kandasht and Sardasht and their field artillery fire checked Iraqi tanks in Nahr-Anbar, and west of Jofeyr Friday preventing their tactical operations.

Iran's Muslim combatants checked all Iraqi operations including movements of their vehicle columns and armoured units throughout the fronts Friday, reports the Joint Staff Command.

Meanwhile the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, both in Khuzestan Province were shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire Friday as a result of which many houses were damaged.

Artillery Pounds Sitak Garrison

LD012015 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] N.E. Al-Sulaymaniyah, March 1, IRNA — Iraq's Sitak military garrison of Al-Sulaymaniyah was heavily pounded by Iranian heavy artillery fire, over the past 24 hours.

Tens of Iraqi soldiers of Brigade 504 of Ba'thist regime's army stationed in the garrison were killed or wounded and numerous enemy vehicles, equipments and hardware as well as some ammunition dumps were set ablaze and demolished.

Commander of the demolished garrison was seen fleeing in a command jeep.

Air Force Bombs 'Val-Fajr-8' Area

LD020947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] The courageous pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force today, in another series of attacks heavily bombed enemy positions situated in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational area. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that the heroic pilots of the Air Force bombed the positions and fortifications of the Ba'thist forces along the Al-Faw-Basra road during the operation which took place at 1415. The smoke rising as a result of the attack could be seen for hours later. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and damage in this operation.

Iraq Drops Chemical Bombs on Baneh

LD021504 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Baneh, Kordestan Prov., March 2, IRNA — The Iraqi forces bombed the city of Baneh in Kordestan Province with chemical weapons four times from noon Sunday since a short while ago.

A large number of people have so far been injured during the chemical attack. They have been transferred to hospitals in the nearby townships.

Communique No 2397

LD021639 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA — Following the recent Iraqi chemical bombardment of suburban villages of Baneh, Kordistan Province, and "Val-Fajr-8" operational region of February 28, Iraqi war planes once again dropped chemical bombs over Baneh region early Sunday, according to a military communique here Sunday.

The communique number 2397 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that in the western fronts, Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi combat and engineering operations in Mehran, Anjireh, Maymak, Halaleh, Kani-Shaykh and pounded their positions Saturday, killing at least 15 Iraqi soldiers and destroying three observation posts and several of their gun emplacements.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian Muslim forces either pressed or halted transport and reinforcement operations of Iraqi troops in Haj 'Umran area killing a number of Iraqi soldiers and blasting two munition dumps of theirs. Elsewhere in the said fronts more Iraqi troops were reported killed or wounded and four light and heavy vehicles together with two munitions dumps were demolished, according to the communique.

In the southern fronts, the Joint Staff Comand says, Iranian troops fortified their positions and with the backing of artillery and mortar fire continued to purge the western banks of the Arvand River inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the Iraqi forces.

The Iranian surface-to-air and field artillery fire forced Iraqi reconnaissance helicopters to flee from Nahr-Anbar and Ain-Khosh and disturbed transport as well as movements of Iraqi mobile columns elsewhere in Faqqeh and Yabis, says the communique. It also said that the exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops were reported to be more intense in Marivan, Kordistan Province than other parts throughout the fronts Saturday.

'Suicide Airplanes' Said Ready for Gulf Targets

GF011912 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports from Tehran, some of the regime's suicide airplanes have been prepared for flight at the Dowshan Tappeh air base in Tehran for attacks of vengeance on the special palaces of the heads of some Arab states of the Persian Gulf. These airplanes, Pilatus PC-7 Turbo-trainers, are made in Switzerland. Their pilots have undergone 1-year's training by North Korean experts.